

2008-2009 BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ANNUAL REPORT

MEMBERS:

- **Minor Bryant,**
District I
- **Nick Timmerman,**
District II
- **Terry Atchley,**
District III
- **Bobby Smith,**
District IV
- **Dale Johnson,**
District V

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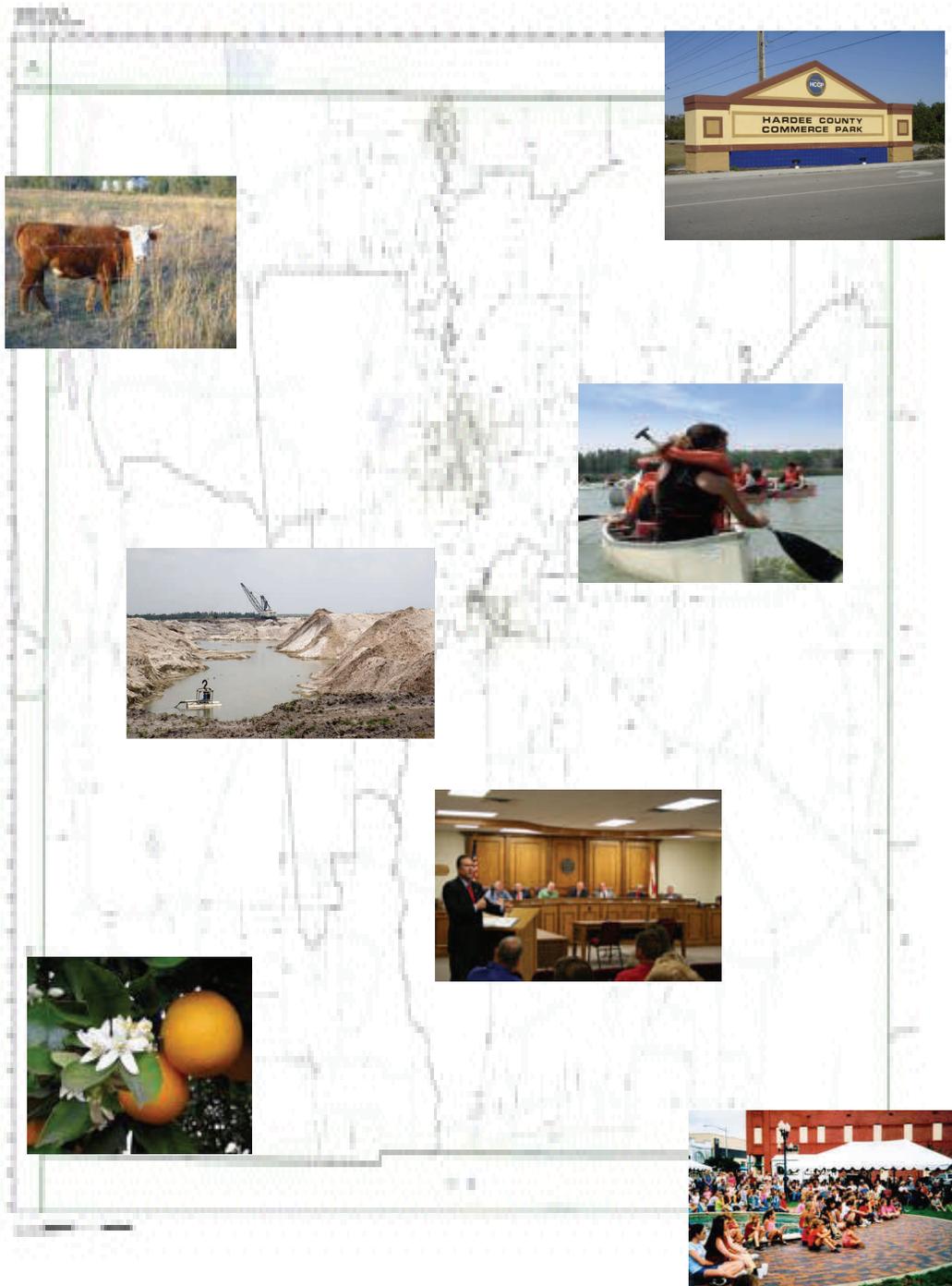
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HARDEE COUNTY

PREPARED BY OMB

NOVEMBER 2009

2008-2009 ANNUAL REPORT





This white tail buck named Roy is a current resident
at the Animal Refuge in Pioneer Park.

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Minor L. Bryant, District I



Lifelong resident of Hardee County

“Hardee County, even though slowly, has continued to move forward in 2009 and I was proud to be a part of it. While it is a difficult time with the tough economic climate we have been able to continue to maintain acceptable levels of service and expand our infrastructure in preparation for future growth when the economy rebounds. I look forward to that time with great expectations of encouraging and supporting smart growth which will provide for well-planned economic development and increased employment opportunities for our citizens.”

Clifton N. Timmerman, District II



Hardee County resident for 27 years

“I maintain my commitment to make sure the growth that is coming to Hardee County is done in a well-planned and orderly fashion. It is vital that we continue to expand the employment opportunities available to our citizens and focus on further development in the County. I look forward to continuing my service to the citizens of Hardee County.”

Terry Atchley, District III

Hardee County resident for 25 years



“With continuing economic challenges this past year, our hard working and dedicated employees have once again stepped up to help face the challenges as a united team. We will face many more challenges in the up coming year, but with challenges come opportunities for growth - both individually and as a community.

Each individual citizen has a responsibility to participates in the future success of our fine county by sharing both their concerns and their ideas for improvements. As a community as a whole, we all share the responsibility to do what is necessary to plant the seeds today for to-morrows success.

As your County Commissioner, I believe it is my responsibility to Listen, Learn and Lead toward progress. It is my honor to serve the citizens of Hardee County as we move forward together toward victory and success.”

Bobby Ray Smith, District IV



Lifelong resident of Hardee County

“It is our role as Commissioners to provide the leadership services and infrastructure needed to maintain the health, welfare and safety of all Hardee County’s residents. Accordingly, my top priority continues to be the support of commercial, residential and economic development. I believe the completion of the four-laning of Highway 17 is an integral part of this mission and I will continue to fight for this until it is complete.”

Dale A. Johnson, District V

Lifelong resident of Hardee County

“WHILE CHALLENGES CONTINUE TO GROW WE WILL CONTINUE TO MEET THEM HEAD ON. WE HAVE A GOOD TEAM IN PLACE AND A WILLINGNESS TO REVIEW ANY PROCEDURES AND POLICIES TO IDENTIFY ANY CHANGES THAT COULD HELP IMPROVE OUR PROCESSES AND SERVICES.

I WILL CONTINUE TO DO MY VERY BEST TO SPEND YOUR TAX DOLLARS WISELY TO MAKE SURE OUR GOVERNMENT OPERATES EFFICIENTLY AND FAIRLY TO PROVIDE HONESTY AND INTEGRITY AND LEADERSHIP TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY. HARDEE COUNTY WILL REMAIN A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE AND PLAY. I PROMISE!”



Ken Evers, PA, County Attorney



Lifelong resident of Hardee County

County Manager's Message



Lex Albritton,
County Manager

Dear Fellow Citizens:

We are pleased to present the 2009 Hardee County Annual Report. It is the goal of this document to inform the citizens of Hardee County of the accomplishments of County Government over the past year. In these pages, you can see what your government is doing for you and your neighbors.

Hardee County, like all counties and citizens, continues to be adversely impacted by the current economic conditions. Although the reductions in our tax base to date have been minimal, I believe we will continue to experience declines in the coming year in both local revenues and state shared revenues. Therefore we will definitely be challenged to continue to provide vital public services to our community due to reductions in workforce along with the reduction in revenues.

During this reporting period, all personnel rallied together and identified over one million dollars in expenditure reductions to the current budget in order to better position the County for the next fiscal year. I'm very proud of staff's efforts in accomplishing this with minimal service reductions. Much of this was a delaying of capital expenditures, but in areas that we can sustain performance until conditions improve. Over the next couple of years we will strive to provide our basic core services with less and ensure that any service reductions will be in areas least impacting to the health and safety of our citizens and businesses.

As we continue to serve the needs of the community, we are also continuing to provide the infrastructure to encourage economic development. As you can see from this report we have been able to continue expansion of the water and wastewater facilities and when the economy does turn around we will be better positioned to provide critical infrastructure for growth and expansion. We will continue to collaborate with the Economic Development Council in attracting businesses to our community.

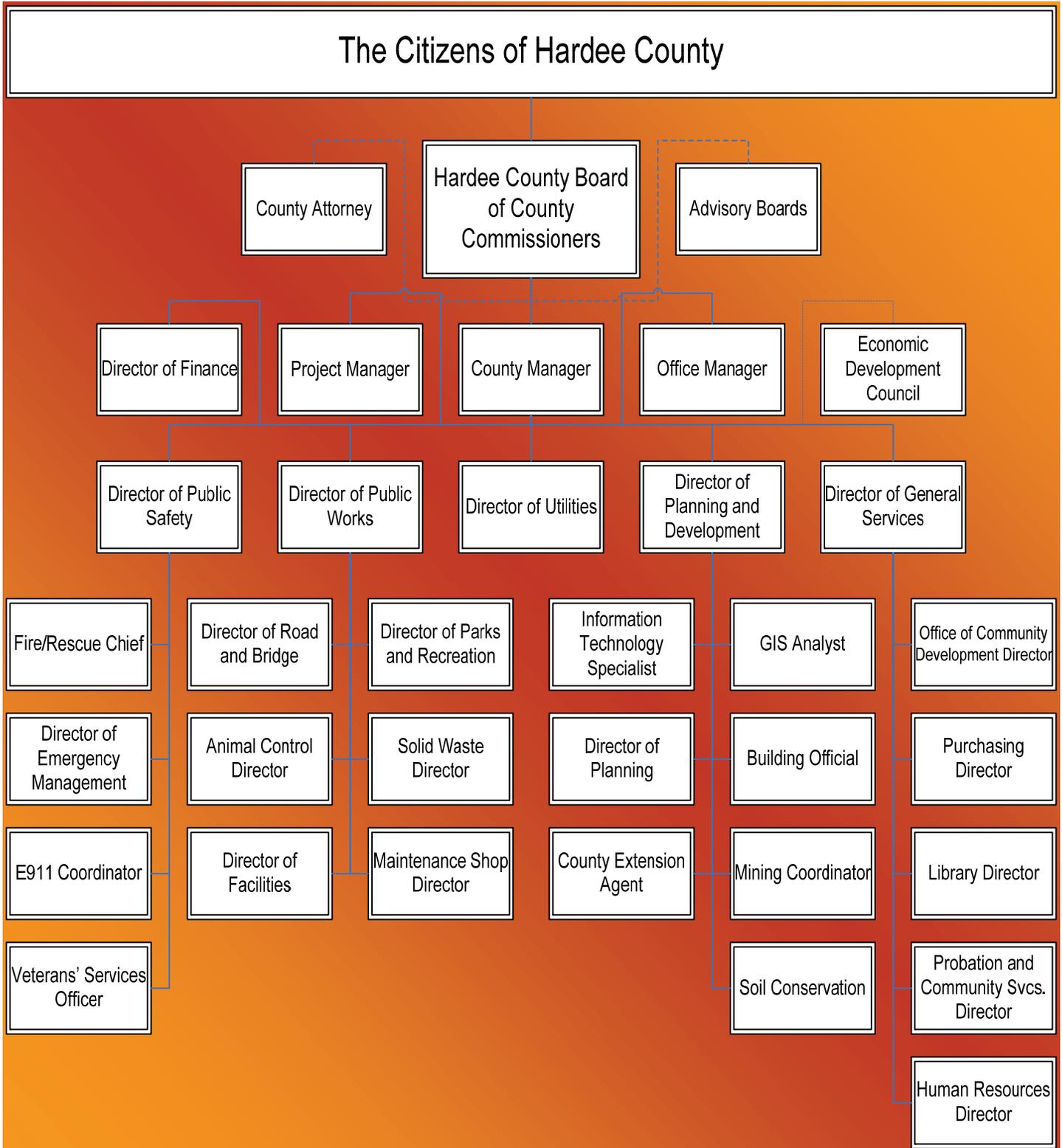
As you read this report, we hope that you will be pleased by all that we have accomplished over the past year. By working together and staying focused, we will continue to ensure that the needs of the community are being met while maintaining the values that make Hardee County a great place to live and work.

Sincerely,

Lex Albritton,
County Manager

Hardee County Board of County Commissioners

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



2008-09 Budget Information



Revenues that support local government come from many different sources. The main source of revenue is ad valorem property taxes. The County received much of its revenues from general government taxes and state shared revenues which include a variety of fuel taxes and sales taxes. Licenses, permits, fees

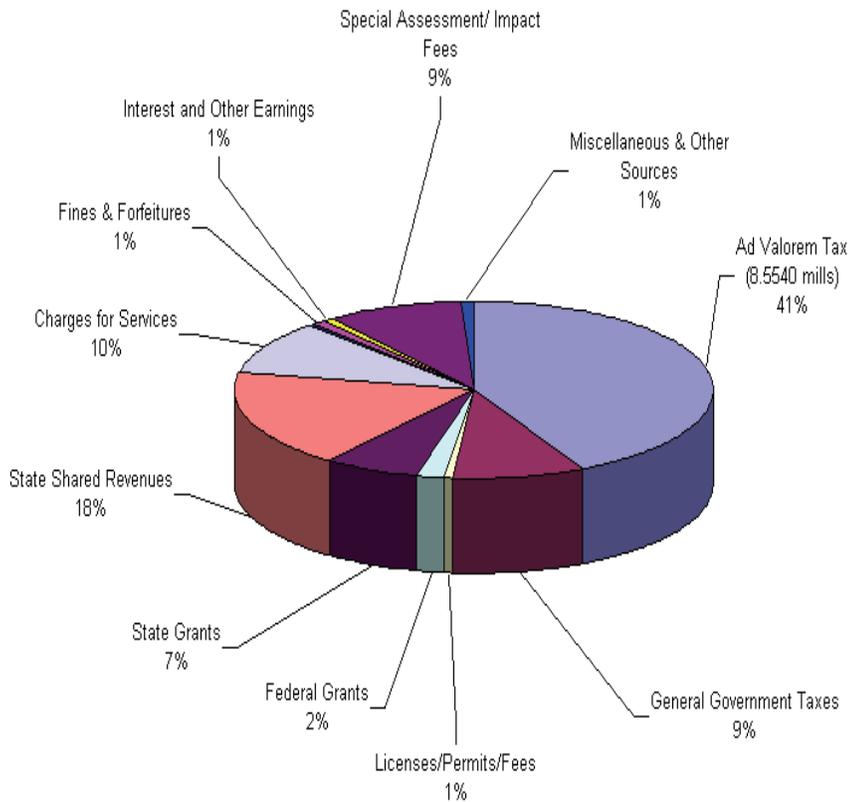
and charges for services are those charges imposed directly for a specific services and restricted to the operational needs of that specific service. There are also a variety of grants that are established for a variety of specific projects including road improvements, operations of the library, operations of the solid waste facility, park improvements,

utility expansions, housing, and more. There is a very small revenue stream generated from Fines & Forfeitures that are granted by the judicial systems within our county and interest earned from cash balances and rental of office spaces make up another very small portion.

The Chart below gives you the percentages generated by each category.

DID YA KNOW?
 The largest contributor to Hardee County Ad Valorem revenues is the power plants contributing 67% of all tax dollars collected in the County.

REVENUE SOURCES 2008-09



2008-09 Budget Information

The County spends those dollars generated on a wide variety of mandates and services provided to County residents. General government services includes the administrative offices necessary to support all departments and programs and includes the County Commissioners, Clerk of Courts, Property Appraiser, Tax Collector, Supervisor of Elections, Human Services, Purchasing, Community Development, Budget, Legal, Planning, Zoning, ITS and Facility Maintenance. The largest expense is afforded to Public Safety within our county and

COUNTY EXPENDITURES

this includes the Sheriff's Department, Fire Rescue and Emergency Medical Services, E-911, Emergency Management and Animal Control.

Physical Environment includes support for Soil Conservation and the County Extension office. Transportation of course is our expenses related to road maintenance and improvement as well as fleet maintenance and storm water drainage.

Economic environment includes contribu-

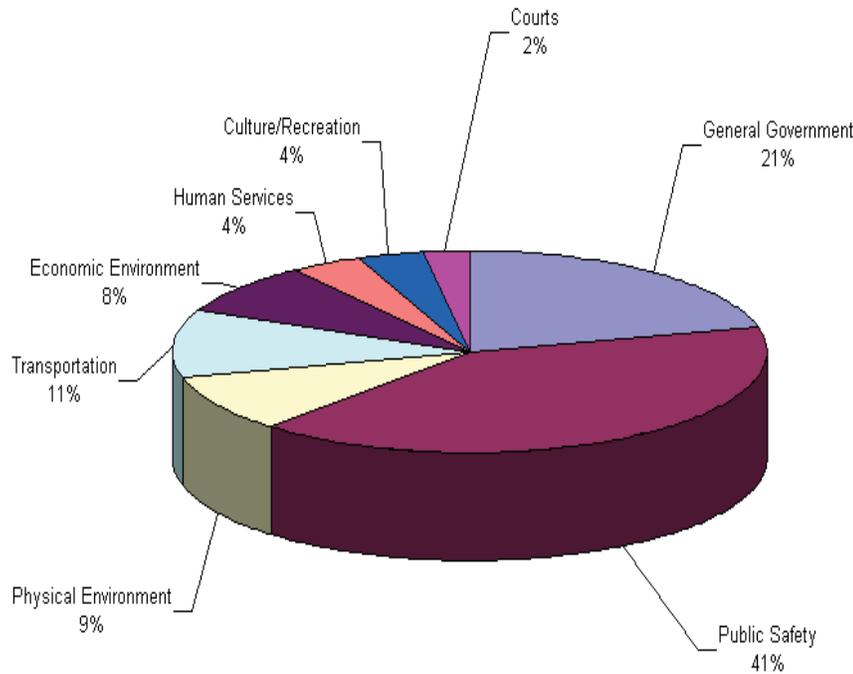
tions to Economic Development and Veterans services. Human Services is funding to support programs such as Rest Haven Nursing Home.

Culture and Recreation includes all of the County owned parks and recreational facilities as well as the Library. Court expenses are related to the mandated obligations of the County to provide facilities and communications to all agencies under the court system.

DID YA KNOW?

It cost the US government 4.2 cents to produce a US bill.

EXPENDITURES 2008-09



Purchasing

The Purchasing Department is staffed by the Purchasing Director, Senior Buyer, Purchasing Specialist and Store Manager, with a combined total of almost 50 years of public procurement experience. This department provides procurement services to the entire County, constantly striving to obtain the best value for the taxpayer's dollars.

The Purchasing Department is charged with the responsibility of fairly and equitably awarding contracts for materials and services in excess of

\$25,000 through the formal Invitation to Bid and Request for Proposals process.

While still dealing with our nation's financial crisis, during the past fiscal year Purchasing issued only 7 formal bids for goods and services, down from 10 in 2007-2008 and 32 in fiscal 2006-2007.

With increased focus on efforts to reduce spending, Purchasing reacted by recording procurement activities as follows:

- Processed 2,900 requisitions, a 3% reduction from the past fiscal year.
- Issued 2,600 purchase orders, a 4% increase over the past fiscal year.
- Processed 3,100 invoices, a 14% reduction from the past fiscal year.
- Administered 3,100 purchases made by credit card, an 11.5% decrease from the past fiscal year.
- Added 111 new vendors to the system in an ongoing effort to obtain maximum value for taxpayer dollars.

Human Resources

The Human Resources department ensures that employment practices and benefits of Hardee County employees are consistent with the goals and objectives of the Board. They provide support and guidance to all county departments to ensure the employees of the County are treated with fairness and have a safe working environment. Some of the accomplishments and activities of this department include:

- Advertised 34 job openings for employment
- Received 643 applications for employment. Increased from 390 in

the 07/08 budget year.

- Conducted 118 interviews for employment
- Successfully hired 22 new employees
- Prepared 26 payrolls for Board of County Commissioners staff
- Investigated and filed 25 worker's compensation claims
- Investigated and filed 8 liability claims
- Investigated and filed 6 auto accident claims
- Investigated and filed 4 property claims
- Ratified two Union contracts
- Maintained personnel records for Board of



County Commissioners employees

- Scheduled and conducted the Hardee County annual Health and Benefit fair
- Reconciled monthly premiums of payroll deductions for payment. (ie: Insurances, pre-paid legal, deferred compensations savings plans, etc.)

Management & Budget



The mission set by the Board of County Commissioners and the County Manager for the Office of Management and Budget is to properly manage the County's budget in a manner that demonstrates high accountability, integrity and prudent spending of public funds. This office was faced with very difficult economic issues and had to pay very close attention to dwindling revenues from both state and county. Our property values lost due to Amendment I was approximately \$75.9 million resulting in a loss of taxes equal to \$591,454. Further, property values have continued to decline over the past two years and the state sent more than \$400 thousand dollars in reductions to state taxes during the 08-09 fiscal year. Realizing the situation early on in the year it was necessary to plan for budget reductions and restrict the spending of county departments as much as possible. Although this was a very difficult year, we are pleased that we made it through with our co-workers and co-departments all willingness to do their part.

OMB accomplished most of the goals established in the beginning of the year through 2008-09 budget process. Those accomplishments are

listed below. Although, these are viewed as accomplishments we will continue to improve each process. The one area that has not realized accomplishment is the area of developing budget policies.

- Developed budget forms and documents that reduced department's budget preparation time by approximately two weeks.
- Submitted a balanced budget – adopted, in accordance with Truth In Millage (TRIM) by the Board of County Commissioners at their desired millage rate and maintained a balanced budget throughout the year.
- Developed quarterly reports for the Board and held workshops regarding major revenue reductions – coordinated budget amendments which resulted in \$1,050,063 reduction of the County's total budget in keeping with the fiscal economy of the nation.
- Processed a total of 34 budget amendments and 213 transfers to meet each departments funding need and maintained a balanced budget. This is a reduction of approximately 30% from the number processed previous year.
- In 2008-2009 OMB developed and published a second budget document designed to educate the general public on the budget process and demonstrates accountability and prudent spending of public funds. We have made this document available on the County's web site.

- Provided new data including the Grants Schedule for the 2007-08 audit.
- Maintained the tax roll for Solid Waste and Fire Control Special Assessments and collected \$20,582 in interim billings for these agencies.
- Successfully complied with the Government Audit Standard Board's accounting policies to implement, maintain and report all of the County's Fixed Assets including infrastructures.
- Coordinated and compiled the County's five year Capital Improvement Plan as required by the County's Comprehensive Plan.
- Successfully managed the budget and meetings for the Independent Indigent Health Care Special District Board.
- Compiled the 2007-08 Annual Report for the County Manager.
- Reorganized department operations and reduced OMB staff by 25% while increasing production and efficient operations.
- Managed County's Debt Schedule and paid off equipment early under the Fire Control budget resulting in a savings of approximately \$78,600 on interest.

DID YA KNOW?
 After unprecedented spikes in the price of fuel, diesel prices decreased by more than 46% and gas decreased by 45% from last fiscal year.



IF ONLY!

Information Technology Services



The IT Department is responsible for maintenance and upgrade of various county computer and telephone systems. It is also responsible for maintaining and upgrading wireless connectivity to all the remote offices belonging to the BoCC, as well as keeping the BoCC website up-to-date.

Accomplishments for the IT Department include:

- Migrating our telephony system to a VOIP phone system in an effort to bring down costs and to unify our communications' systems.
- Upgraded our wireless infrastructure to provide better wireless

connectivity to our remote offices.

- Worked with Emergency Mgmt to build their COOP plan, guaranteeing critical connectivity in times of disaster.

Geographic Information Systems

DID YA KNOW?
The recording density for data — aka capacity — has increased 60,000,000-fold in 50 years.

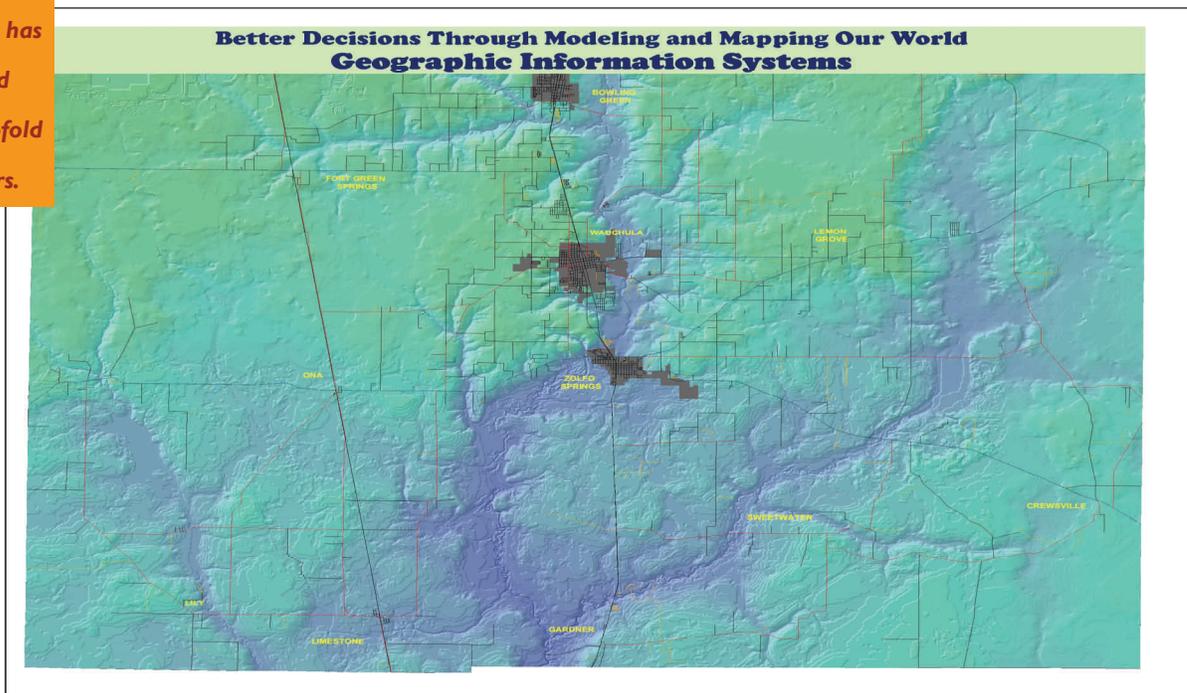
- The GIS Department has created and updated new digital management systems of E-911 roads for Polk County dispatch, E-911 addressing, utilities, emergency management special needs, and other county infrastructure data.
- During 08/09, the GIS De-

partment updated and began the creation, debugging, and launch of the newly redesigned “Land Resource Data” website for public access to County data.

- GIS provides digital tools that extract and organize geospatial data, model geo-

graphic processes, and visualize these data and models with advanced computer techniques.

- GIS has evolved into a technology that can help people plan, design, build, and maintain information infrastructures that improve Hardee County departmental operation.



Emergency Management



Hardee County Emergency Operations Center *The mission of Hardee County Emergency Management is to safeguard and protect the lives and property of Hardee County citizens by preparing for, responding to, recovering from, and mitigating against natural and man-made disasters.*

Some notable accomplishments for our department include: Delivered 12 public education seminars providing education on natural and man-made disasters.

- Prepared cold-weather and hurricane shelters
- Conducted annual hurricane exercise
- Conducted full-scale COOP activation to Alternate EOC

- Held 4th annual Hazardous Weather Awareness contest for students in Hardee County Schools
- Distributed 50 All-Hazards Alert Radios
- Collaborated with IT and GIS to launch a web-based Special Needs Shelter application form
- Revised and submitted the Local Mitigation Strategy Plan
- Coordinated with the Health Department regarding our local response to the Novel (H1N1) Influenza Outbreak
- Responded to 22 requests for assistance from other public safety agencies.

Our department also utilized over \$170,000 in state and federal grant funds to accomplish the following projects:

- Create and equip an Alternate Emergency Operation Center
- Deliver over 100 hours of All-Hazards training to first responders in Hardee

- County
- Conducted a full-scale, real-time Continuity of Operations (COOP) exercise
- Delivered Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training to residents of SKP Park.

Emergency Management Department Staff had several significant accomplishments during FY 08-09, including:

- EM Coordinator credentialed as a Planning Section Chief
- EM Planner deployed to Madison County for disaster relief
- Director appointed to Florida Emergency Preparedness Association Board of Directors as the Region 4 Governor
- Director served as Operations Chief in the City of Tampa EOC during Super Bowl week.

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Enhanced 9-1-1

E-911 administers the emergency program in accordance with state laws and rules thus making E-911 services universally available and as effective as possible in providing immediate citizen access to emergency services, thereby saving time for the caller and assisting emergency services in their response activities. Some notable accom-

plishments for this department include:

- Hardee County E911 received \$30,679.00 in grant funds to accomplish the following: Purchased maintenance agreements on the 911 equipment including the recording system and provided training for the

911 coordinator on the upcoming technology for 911

- 42 new addresses were issued
- Participated in public education at several community outreach programs throughout the county.

Fire Rescue and Emergency Medical Services



DID YA KNOW?

The Emergency Operations Center's new Voice Over IP (VOIP) telephone system makes the activation of the Alternate EOC possible in less than 60 minutes.

Hardee County Fire Rescue is a combination department that provides both fire suppression and emergency medical services with transport services. In addition to our primary core responsibilities, we provide public education in both areas of the field as well as fire safety inspection services to all new and existing businesses of the community as required by statute. The National Incident Fire Reporting System (NIFRS) year end call volume data for 2008 is broken down into categories as described below:

Fires	261
Overpressure / Explosion	3
Rescue and EMS	2,787
Hazardous Conditions	109
Service Calls	107
Good Intent Calls	498
False Alarms or False Call	191
Special	13

Hardee County Fire Rescue only employs one fire inspector to conduct all new construction and annual fire inspections. Our inspector logged over 1,400 hours of onsite inspection activities for the year 2008 which does not include the typical research, computer work and other office work required of the job.

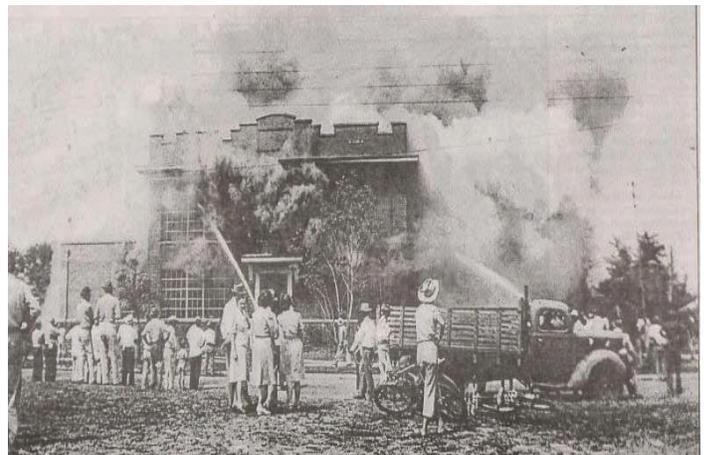
Hardee County Fire Rescue recently moved into its new fire station in Zolfo Springs that was built in a joint effort with the City of Zolfo Springs as a result of a FEMA grant applied for after the devastation of

Hurricane Charley. The fire rescue crews for HCFR Station 2 had inhabited a FEMA single wide trailer since 2004 and are enthusiastic about their new quarters. Our department applied for a new FEMA Fire Station Building Construction Grant in the 2008 fiscal year to replace the Bowling Green FEMA trailer as well and are waiting for notification sometime in the near future.

The department had reported an award for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the previous fiscal year for the purchase of 3 new thermal imaging cameras. These thermal imagers have all been purchased and put into operation at all three fire stations. The availability of such devices has saved the individual homeowners and businesses of this community significantly by allowing our firefighters to locate hidden

fires in walls and attic spaces that may have gone undetected before.

Although economic times have been difficult for all county agencies this last year, Hardee County Fire Rescue has taken a proactive stance to ensure we are part of the solution and not part of the problem. In the 2008 budget year, Fire Rescue was budgeted \$150,000.00 towards the purchase of a much needed new ambulance. However, to ensure we continue to do our part in ensuring the county's financial stability, the fire department administration voluntarily turned back in the funds for this ambulance along with 30 to 40 thousand additional dollars from other projects to help in the stabilization of the county's overall budget.



Animal Control



DID YA KNOW?

One in four shelter dogs are purebred?

with Desoto County Animal Services and Hardee Animal Clinic to have 11 animals transferred to their shelter/clinic.

Animal Control helped the Hardee County Sheriff's Department, Town of Zolfo Springs and City of Wauchula on an as needed basis.

Animal Control responded to the following:

Bite reports	61
Call-outs	3
Complaints	1,067

Animal Control issued the following:

Citations	124
Correction Notices	14
Warnings	106

Capital Cost for 2008-2009 was \$4,160 for a Smithbilt Shed

that was purchased to house the cats away from the dogs.

During the past fiscal year donations such as food for the animals were down which adds cost to our operating budget. Staff continues to work diligently on posting animals on pet finder and advertising a pet of the week for the local paper. Staff has also participated in a couple of county events such as the Safety Fair that was held at Pioneer Park and Peace River Electric Coop's annual meeting.

Staff also asked the Board of County Commissioners to sign a proclamation for Hardee County to participate in the Spay Day USA. Two local vets donated six spay/neuter packages to be raffled off. The cost of the tickets were \$1.00 and the department earned a total of \$316 from the raffle.

During this fiscal year Animal Control impounded 1,052 animals. There were 728 animals euthanized, 192 adopted, and 107 redeemed by their owners. The revenue generated from adoptions, donations, impoundment fees, boarding fees, and reimbursements was \$12,940.76.

Animal Control provided a surrender service at no charge to the public. There were 216 animals surrendered to Animal Control in the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

Animal Control collaborated

DID YA KNOW?
Over 1,000 animals are impounded in Hardee County every year?

HARDEE COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL
685 AIRPORT ROAD. WAUCHULA FL. 33873
863-773-2320

Adoptions:

We offer dogs and cats for adoption of all ages and breeds. Most of the animals available for adoption have been abandoned, are unwanted, or are strays. We reserve the right to deny adoption based on an individuals previous history with Animal Control.

Adoption Requirements:

1. You must be at least 18 years of age to adopt.
2. You must provide a valid photo I.D.
3. You must sign an adoption agreement.
4. You must pay an adoption fee.
5. You must return your voucher if you adopt a puppy or kitten.

Adoption Fees:

Fees vary from \$10.00 to \$45.00 per animal and are non-refundable. We are only able to accept cash or personal checks at this time.



DID YA KNOW?
The County received a grant to offer free spay & neuter for feral cats last year?

Road and Bridge

The Road and Bridge Department is the largest department within the County and is responsible for the construction and maintenance of roads, bridges and right-of-way in the County's road system. Within the County, there are 310.03 miles of paved roads and 201.58 miles of unpaved roads, as well as 70 bridges. The sign shop is part of this department and is responsible for fabricating, installing and maintaining all roadway signage, as well as maintaining four overhead flashing traffic lights, one overhead signal light and seven flashing roadside lights. This department also coordinates, reviews and issues permits for all utilities and driveway connections/culverts being placed in the County right-of-way, in addition to handling all right-of-way inquiries and road closure requests. This year the County Engineer position was filled. The County Engineer is to provide technical support to other County departments, to ensure the County's infrastructure is safe and effective, and to review and ensure all development in the County is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Board of County Commissioners. Activities and accomplishments of the Road and Bridge department for 2008/2009 include:

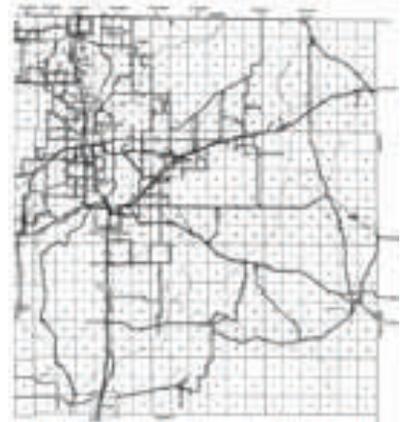
- Issued 98 utility permits and 31 culvert/connection permits.
- Submitted 259 utility locate requests.
- Completed design, permitting and obtained additional right-of-way for the paving and drainage improvements for Gebhart



- Road from S.R. 62 to Commerce Lane.
- Completed design and permitting for the widening, resurfacing and drainage improvements for Steve Roberts Special from S.R. 64 to Parnell Road through F.D.O.T.'s SCRAP funding.
- Completed design and permitting for the widening, resurfacing and drainage improvements for College Hill Road from S.R. 62 to C.R. 664 through F.D.O.T.'s SCRAP funding.
- Completed design and permitting for the widening, resurfacing and drainage improvements for North Florida Avenue from Carlton

Street to U.S. 17 through F.D.O.T.'s SCRAP/SCOP funding.

- Timber bridges with major repairs in 2008/2009: Parnell Road, Sweetwater Road (Main Overflow), Fussell Road, Dansby Road, Center Hill Road, College Hill Road, Fish Branch Road, and Post Plant Road (North).
- Reviewed numerous site development plans in conjunction with the Hardee County Planning Department.
- Coordinated the preparation and layout of exhibitor and vendor booths for Pioneer Park Days and provided employees to work the event.
- Performed weekly bulk waste pickup which collected a total of 123.45 tons of bulk waste throughout the County.
- Supervised weekly trash pickup by community service workers.



Fleet Maintenance



The Maintenance Shop is responsible for providing and maintaining safe and dependable equipment to all County departments. Activities and ac-

complishments of the Maintenance Shop for 2008/2009 include:

541 road calls
35 overtime service calls
2,279 work orders

Facilities Management

The Facilities Department is responsible for the maintenance of all County owned buildings and their adjacent areas. This department constructs new buildings and renovates old buildings as needed to accommodate the occupants. In-house staff is utilized for maintenance, as well as all phases of con-

struction. This reduces the need for outside contractors which benefits the County monetarily.

Some major accomplishments of the Facilities Management Department include:

- The installation of three new water heaters at the county jail

- The installation of a handicap fishing pier at Hardee Park beside the Civic Center as part of FRDAP grant for the new soccer fields
- Conducted a major renovation in the Tax Collectors office to allow room for housing the State Drivers Licenses services.

Utilities

The Hardee County Utility Department (HCUD) is responsible for all facets of management and operational safety of the County owned water and wastewater service area treatment plants, their associated collection, distribution & transmission systems and facility requirements planning, construction, billings, collections, operation and maintenance.

HCUD on 01Jan09 ended the nearly five years of outsourcing plant operator functions to the City of Wauchula and assumed its own internal operations & maintenance of all facilities.

HCUD achieved a level of revenue generation from all sources during the year whereby no County General Revenue subsidy has been proposed for budget to the Utility

Enterprise Funds next year—in fact, a substantially increased contribution from the Enterprise Funds is budgeted for support services by General Revenue departments.

HCUD connected utility lines to two new commercial operations within the HCCP; completed design, permitted, bid and awarded the construction of the two future water plant deep wells, as well as Wauchula Hills Subdivision Phase 2 construction of utility collection & distribution systems expansion with planned additional connection of over 50 homes; and, initiated construction of interconnects to tie in waste water lift stations of two existing mobile home parks to the Wauchula Hills plant and completed the new Wauchula Airport's lift station connection activities to the Vandolah Plant.

Requested and received a \$30,000 Workforce Investment Board/SFCC reimbursable grant to subsidize this year's new utility trainee's training leading toward State dual certification as a plant operator. Continued waste water & reuse water regional system planning and Vandolah Rural Center facilities design through State funded reimbursable grants. Continued planning, design and permitting of the Wauchula Hills service area proposed Water Treatment Plant expansion and associated HCUD Operations Center now scheduled for construction during 2010 using several funding sources, to include reimbursable grants from the HC EDA.



DID YA KNOW?

It requires two years of training and State testing to certify a dual wastewater plant operator

Landfill



During the past fiscal year the landfill section of the Solid Waste Department worked closely with SCS Engineers to submit the application for the partial closure of the 12.5 acre landfill site.

Capital Cost for the fiscal year included expenses of \$40,000 paid to SCS Engineers for permitting of closure of the old cell and purchasing a Utility Vehicle in the amount of \$7,000 to use for a spotter vehicle.

Additional improvements for the Landfill included a new groundwater pumping station with control panels and improvements were made to the leachate collection system by replacing worn parts which cost \$22,000.

The landfill has multiple programs available to Hardee County residents. One program is the Household Hazardous Waste Collection. These collections were held quarterly and allowed the residents to bring in household hazardous waste to the landfill so that it could be properly diverted and recycled. The collections resulted in 19.09 tons of hazardous materials

being disposed of at a cost of \$19,600. In addition, the Landfill also provides a safe method for residents to dispose of their unwanted needles through the Sharps Program. This program greatly reduces the risk of accidental exposure of infectious diseases to sanitation workers and solid waste staff.

The tons of waste that the landfill staff processed are listed in the following categories:

Class I Disposal:	17,685 Tons
Wood and Yard:	1,311 Tons
Scrape Metal:	164 Tons
Tires:	187 Tons

The Solid Waste staff is responsible for the collection of tipping fees, daily accounting of cash customers, monthly invoicing of deposit account customers and collections. The total tipping fees collected for the fiscal year totaled \$589,360.01. The Solid Waste staff also applies and

manages the Small County Consolidated Grant. The state awarded grant was for \$277,316.

The solid Waste staff maintains various contractual service agreements that include the treatment of leachate, groundwater and surface water monitoring, leachate and methane gas testing, household hazardous waste collection and disposal, and classification/verification inspections and training. The total amount of leachate hauled for treatment was 5,778,000 gallons. The cost of treatment was \$34,453.97.

The Solid Waste staff field and effectively resolve complaints received from unincorporated Hardee County residents who receive garbage pickup. Special pick up requests from unincorporated residents are also taken by solid waste staff and forwarded to Public Works. The staff is also responsible for the production and proper distribution of private road identification cards.

DID YA KNOW?

That a single person generates an estimated 4 pounds of garbage per day?



Recycling



Bales of aluminum cans

Over the past fiscal year the Recycling section of the Solid Waste Department was responsible for recycling the following:

Scrap Metal:	236 tons
Lead Acid Batteries:	10 tons
Cardboard:	111 tons
News Print:	4 tons
E-Scrap:	40 tons
Pallets:	7 tons

The Solid Waste Staff is responsible for finding markets for recyclables. A total of

\$11,697.64 was received in recycling revenues. Desoto County still has an agreement with Hardee County to process their recyclables. In return, Hardee County will keep all revenue received for processing.

The Recycling section manages a variety of Solid Waste contracts. Consolidated Resource Recovery is used for the processing of wood and yard debris. They processed a total of 1,110.99 tons of wood and yard debris at a cost of \$14,220.98. Hardee Correctional Institution provided a trained corrections officer and an eight-inmate work squad to aid in resource recovery at a cost of \$57,000. The Department of Environmental Services mandates that there be no elec-

tronics disposed of in the landfill; therefore American Electronic Recycling provides the Solid Waste Department with a roll-off bin for the collections of electronics. Staff collected a total of 40.41 tons at a cost of \$9,800. The Department of Environmental Protection also states that you cannot put car or truck tires in a landfill, they must be recycled. Staff recycled a total of 175.65 tons of tires at a cost of \$27,812.50.

The Solid Waste Department continues to promote the value of all recycling programs available. Other accomplishments include crushing 489.37 tons of concrete that was brought in by the City of Wauchula and the County.

DID YOU KNOW?
Florida has a statewide recycling rate of 28%

Planning & Zoning

For the fiscal year 2008-2009, the Planning/Development Department processed requests for Comprehensive Plan Text Amendments, "Comp Plan" Future Land Use Map Amendments, Special Exceptions, exceptions to Policy LI.15 of the "Comp Plan", rezoning(s), and amendments to the Hardee County Unified Land Development Code in addition to minor subdivisions. The department held conferences with developers and property owners for potential projects requiring Site Development Plan approval and coordinated Development Review Committee meetings.

Ordinance No. 2009-01 was approved for transmittal to DCA amending the "Comp Plan" Capital Improvements Element and Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan, Ordinance No. 2009-04 was approved for a Small-Scale "Comp Plan" FLU Map amendment for Alpha-Omega Freedom Ministries changing the land use designation of 5.0+/- acres from Agriculture to Highway Mixed Use for lands along South Florida Ave.

Ordinance No. 2009-06 was approved amending the text of the Unified Land Development Code pertaining to

minor subdivisions and Ordinance No. 2009-07 was approved amending the text of the ULDC regarding setbacks for communications towers in the Industrial and Public Institutional-zoning districts by Special Exception.

Site Construction Plans were approved for the seven-lot development of Hilltop Acres along Altman Rd., West of South Florida Ave.



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Planning & Zoning, Continued...

Rezoning (s) were approved for Melendy/Coker Fuel for 4.0+/-acres from A-1 to

C-2; Peace River Investments for 73.0+/-acres from A-1 to F-R along Hwy. 17 South, East of South Florida Ave., Alpha-Omega Freedom Ministries for 5.0+/-acres from A-1 to R-3 to expand the Hannah House ministry.

A Variance to setbacks from Horse Creek was granted to Richard/Thaia Purdy for development of a single-family dwelling as well as a Variance to set-

backs from the Peace River was granted to John O'Neal/Karen Summers for development of a dwelling.

Special Exceptions were approved for a business office trailer on 120.34+/-acres in the A-1-zoning district, and a 9,000+/-sq-ft warehouse in conjunction with a produce packing/shipping project on 6.71+/-acres in the A-1-zoning district located on Merle Langford Rd. A Special Exception was granted to use an existing single-family dwelling as a business office on 3.40+/-acres zoned A-1.

One of the major services the Planning/Development Department provides to the general citizenry is zoning information/land use data sheets. Those sheets answer specific questions and cite regulations from the Unified Land Development Code and the Comprehensive Plan to help inquirers know what can be done with a parcel of land before development plans are finalized. Along with the zoning answers, information about floodplain areas and identified wetlands areas is provided.

Building & Code Enforcement

The building and Code Enforcement Department continues to ensure that all structures are constructed according to the adopted codes and ordinances that are designed to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Hardee County.

Accomplishments this year include.

2,649 customer signed into our daily log for assistance. 5,643 phone calls were logged and responded to. We issued 667 permits with closing out 868 permits.

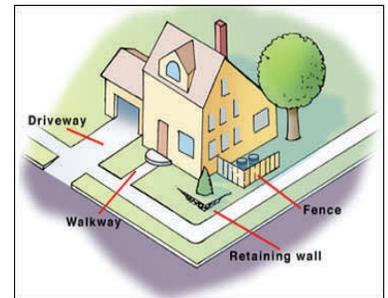
There were 39 single family residences built this year. Our one inspector completed 4,105 inspections for

permits. Turn around time for a single family residence is 2 days if package is complete.

377 new code complaints were called into the office and addressed.

62 citations were written. We were in court with 146 code cases including carry over from previous year.

71 code calls were unfounded. Many of the code cases we address are life safety issues and have to be addressed quickly. The code officer responds with in 24 hours to a code case. Some of these we work with the property owners for months to resolve their issues. Some can be closed quickly.



We have collected \$3,455 in fines for building with no permits and expired permits.

We have developed an aggressive process for tracking our expired permits and building with no permits with the help of our Blue Prince system. These corrections assist in verifying the work is done by code and in a safe manner for the property owner and neighbors.



Mining

During this past fiscal year the Mining Department Staff attended Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) inspections for CF Industries and Mosaic. In addition the staff has received training on Environmental Permitting and Water Use Permitting. Below are some of the other activities and accomplishments for this past year:

- Staff has conducted monthly water quality sampling at each designated sampling

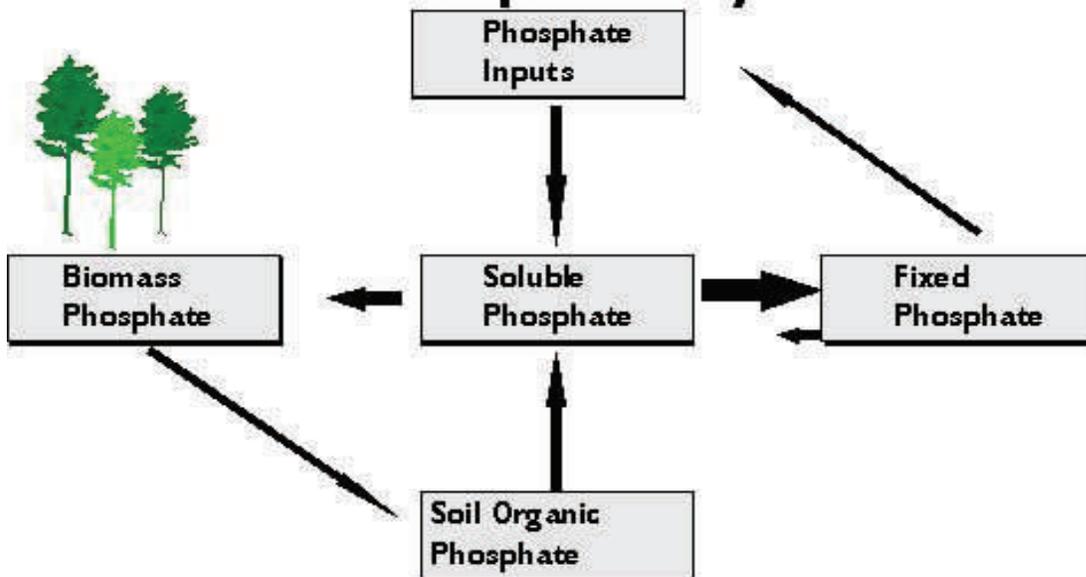
area and reviewed each monthly water quality report.

- The Mining Department received the Ona Mine pre-application conference document. The project is approximately 20,676 acres
- The Mining Department attended the Ona Mine pre-application meeting
- Staff has coordinated with State and Federal Agencies on all projects and activities related to Mining and DRI projects
- Staff has conducted field surveys and assisted the Industry in their efforts to produce applications for Mosaic's Ona Mine and CF's South Pasture Extension
- Staff attended the 24th Annual Regional Phosphate Conference

- Staff has completed FDEP Reclamation Release Inspections and ensured that the proper procedures are followed
- Staff has conducted a review of each Clay Settling Area and Sand Clay Mix Dam Report
- Staff has ensured timely reclamation and assured that the Hardee County Mining Ordinance (HCMO) and the County's Comprehensive Plan are implemented properly
- Staff has continued to assure compliance with the HCMO and the Hardee County Comprehensive Plan. The Mining Department has received the 2007 Annual Reports for CF Industries and Mosaic Fertilizer.

DID YA KNOW?
 Florida provides 75% of the phosphorous used by US farmers and about 25% of world production?

The Phosphorus Cycle



Community Development

Community Development provides an integrated system of resources, services and opportunities to help people improve their lives

DID YA KNOW?

Community Development offers a home-buyer education class monthly in Hardee County?

and their neighborhoods. Over the past year this department has made the following accomplishments:

Successfully completed and closed two FRDAP grants for outdoor recreation, one Animal Friend Grant that was used to reduce pet over-population, one Closing The Gap grant that was used for diabetes self-management and one CDBG Housing Grant.

Expended over \$479,156

assisting local families in fulfilling the American dream of becoming first-time homeowners.

Expended over \$1.6 million for repair and alterations to improve the health, safety and well being of local families. Assistance also provided structural modifications to enhance accessibility for elderly and physically impaired occupants.

Continued collection on defaulted liens to ensure continuity of the housing assistance programs, collecting nearly \$29K to assist other income eligible families.

Continued budget management and regulatory compliance reporting

from local, State and Federal levels regarding affordable housing, recreation, health care and Wastewater Infrastructure grants.

Community Development, in collaboration with the Hardee County Health Department offered free comprehensive diabetes self-management education classes monthly for diabetics and pre-diabetics, focusing on diabetes prevention and control.

Community Development provided free counseling services for 47 Hardee County residents in the areas of Homebuyer Preparation, Foreclosure Prevention and Financial Budgeting/Credit.

Extension Office

The Cooperative extension Service provides research based educational information and services in the areas of agriculture, family and consumer sciences and 4-H youth. Over the course of the 2008-09 year, the extension office performed the following services:

- Conducted Annual Citrus Production School
- Conducted multiple classes in pesticide certification, equipment safety and worker protection standards.
- FCS Agent facilitated

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Alliance (TPPA) and Drug Prevention Coalition (DPC) educational meetings and events in an effort to reduce risky behaviors in Hardee County's youth in the areas of teen pregnancy and drug and alcohol abuse.

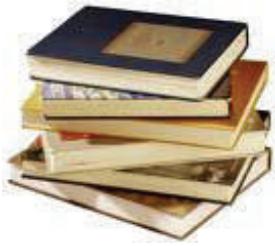
- Multiple nutrition classes were taught to preschool teachers using the Color Me Healthy Train-the-Trainer, Food Guide Pyramid (My Pyramid), and the USDA Dietary Guidelines curriculum.
- Articles published on health and nutrition in The Herald-Advocate.

Basics summer day camp was held for children and youth in Hardee County.

- Taught nutrition and 4-H curriculum to all 4th grade students in Hardee County at annual Ag-Fest sponsored by Farm Bureau.
 - Monthly 4-H leader trainings are held to keep volunteers current with state 4-H program development.
- Staff recruited and trained volunteer leaders for three new project area 4-H clubs.



Library



With a rich history that traces back many years the Hardee County Public Library has grown and evolved to fulfill its mission of maintaining and improving public library services to reflect the informational, educational and recreational needs of our diverse community.

“Hardee County Library is a cool place to learn!” The library provides quality customer service to the public including increased access to information, collection development and resource sharing. The county participates in an interlocal agreement with the Heartland Library Cooperative to provide resources to county residents from a shared database.

State Aid to Libraries Grant awarded the library \$63,026.00 for 2008-09. The Florida State

Library also funded \$4,000 for the “Entertainment to Go” grant, which provided funds to expand the children’s collection of music CD’s and DVD’s.

The Children’s Story Time Program has seen a growth in the past year from an original group of 20 children per month to average of thirty-six, 2-5 year olds. A total of 2,828 children participated in some type of programming during the year!

During FY 2008-09 the library circulated 64,055 items, which include books, audios and DVDs for customers of all ages.

DID YA KNOW?
Last fiscal year the library had over 59,000 visits.

Parks and Recreation

Hardee County maintains approximately 1,500 acres of public park property with a very wide range of activities provided.

The recreational complex includes an Olympic size swimming pool, softball and baseball fields and racquetball courts. This past year, with funding sources from the state FRDAP grant, a new baseball field and a soccer field was constructed. In addition, a handicap fishing pier was installed at the parks lake.

One of the newest and largest parks opened to the public is Hardee Lakes. This park includes miles of fitness trails for

pedestrians, bicyclers and horseback riders. There are four lakes with both boat and dock fishing access and it’s all beautifully maintained by this department. Hardee Lakes hosted a 4th Annual Nature Fest with over 1,200 in attendance this past year.

Parks and Recreation supported the formation of a newly founded non-profit organization called “Friends of the Parks”. This organizations main objective is to seek grant dollars and raise money for park improvements.

One of the biggest attractions in Hardee County each year is the **Pioneer Park Days**

Event. Held every year during the first weekend in March, this event blends the roar of old engines with the excitement of a huge flea market and lively entertainment. This year was the 41st event and claimed the following accomplishments:

- Total revenues from the collection of ticket sales were \$39,481.
- Country Craft demonstrations daily around Cracker Trail Museum with a fossil hunt for the children provided by Mosaic. Florida Frontiersmen demonstrating frontier and pioneer living drew a



Cabin at Pioneer Park

Parks and Recreation, Continued...



Animal Refuge

DID YA KNOW?

Most Florida wildlife are considered to be nocturnal or crepuscular, meaning that they are actively feeding and moving about during the dusk to dawn hours and resting during the day.

large crowd. Some demonstrators camped in their tepees while attending the show.

- Camping fees collected were \$18,920
- Received donation from Mosaic for the entertainment during the week of the show

Received \$39,845 in flea market/concession rental spaces for 2009.

The **Hardee County Animal Refuge** is located within Pioneer Park in the southern part of Hardee County. The Refuge is home to approximately 40 animals and has a 1200-foot long elevated boardwalk that winds among the trees, providing an attractive arena for visitors to view the animals in environments similar to their natural habitats. There are viewing nodes constructed along the boardwalk that contain information kiosks to provide the visiting public with educational information and facts about the various animals who have sanctuary here.

Despite budgetary reductions and decreased employment hours, the Hardee County Animal Refuge:

- Acquired and accommodated for three new white tail deer and a great horned owl
- Provided an educational setting for 1,249 school children to learn about native animals and habitats.
- Presented a recreational and educational experience for more than 11,000

guests at Pioneer Park.

- Utilized the veterinary skills, education and experience of the refuge manager and limited the expense of professional veterinarian services thus maintaining the health and welfare of each animal

• Partnered with Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation, Inc. to provide refuge for injured and non releasable wildlife and trained staff to supply special provisions required by each of those animals

- Presented outreach programs to various head start and preschool organizations
- Participated as an active partner in Pioneer Park Days

• Partnered with local business such as Hardee Ranch Supply, Sweetbay and Walmart to accept donations of bagged feed and produce thus reducing the budget

- Utilized volunteers to assist with public relation activities
- Maintained the exhibitors' license with the United States Department of Agriculture.

The **Cracker Trail Museum** was dedicated in 1967 and has been the receptacle for thousands of Hardee County treasures. It had outgrown its original space very quickly and additions were subsequently built to house the donations that encompass the walls, glass cases and floor space.

While it is the objective to guarantee adequate preservation of these precious collections, it also provides educational pro-

grams for our young people. For more than twenty years, approximately 300 Outdoor Classroom third graders have visited the museum and outer buildings that comprise its Pioneer Village. During this budget year, that number has been expanded to include preschool and school age children from surrounding counties.

Cracker Trail Museum has been actively involved in an Oral History Project in which local pioneer residents have been able to tell their story detailing Hardee County as it was in years past. These audio and video histories have been transferred to digital format and will be the basis for informative presentations during daily hours of operation at the museum.

Like all of the 3,500 plus acquisitions located within Cracker Trail Museum, the photographs are of extreme value. This year a project was completed which allowed for all of the photographs within the building to be scanned and saved digitally so none will be lost in the event of disasters.

During Pioneer Park Days, activities have been increased which includes quilting lessons within the museum and stories for the children. Each year, the numbers have increased for those visiting the museum.

Plans are being made for another addition to be made to the museum which will allow more space for the number of acquisitions which are donated daily.

Soil Conservation

The Hardee SWCD, voted in by Hardee County as authorized by Chapter 617.05, has worked in cooperation with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in assisting farmers and ranchers in Hardee County; the district has approximately 1150 cooperators. For 2009 -10, the Hardee SWCD assisted in the obligation of \$817,581.00 of cost shared assistance for approximately 36,847 planned acres. Conservation practices were applied on 3,457 acres. The

Field Office provided support to the Mobile Irrigation Lab in providing assistance to 25 local producers and they also provided assistance to individuals in obtaining SWFWMD permits. Technical information was provided to roughly 395 individuals.

The District provides assistance to government and private landowners on environmental subject such as wetlands, endangered and threatened species, nutrient and pest management, soils, and technical help in man-

aging natural resources.

Workload for the Hardee in cooperation with NRCS consist of 80% in Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), 2% in Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP), 3% in Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), 15% in providing technical information to landowners and other government agencies such as Soil Surveys, topographic maps, wetlands & aerials maps, programs information, and engineering design/technical advice.



Veterans Services



Veterans Services assist Hardee County veterans and their families by providing counseling and assistance in order to establish VA benefits under Federal and State laws which may result in monetary gain and medical care.

Hardee County Veterans Service Office assisted over 2,200 Hardee County Veterans for fiscal year 2009 providing the

- following services:
- Service Connected compensation
- Non-service connected pension
- Health care
- Education
- Home Loan guarantees
- Burial benefits
- Dependent/survivors benefits
- Lost military records
- Property tax exemption

DID YA KNOW?
There are over 2.3 Million disabled veterans in the US today?

Human Services

The Hardee County Board of County Commissioners participates in allocating county funds to various non-profit organizations that are established within the county. These organizations are thought to be a great benefit to the residents and they help to improve the physical and mental state of residents in need. They also provide many needed elderly services as well as

promoting the economic strength and community environment that is necessary for a healthy community.

The following not-for-profit organizations received funding from the County:

- Hardee County Health Department
- Peace River Center
- Hope of Hardee
- Rest Haven

HARC
Tri-County Addictions
ATC Intelitran
Human Services also includes funding that is mandated by the state for indigent health care, Medicaid supplements and indigent burials.



County Probation



DID YA KNOW?
 there was a 27% increase in probation fees collected over the last budget year.

This department provides supervision services to the court system for misdemeanor cases in Hardee County. These services are provided in such a manner as to ensure compliance with court ordered obligations. Services are provided to ensure probationers assistance in living a worthwhile life style, thereby enabling them to stay in society and contribute, without adding extra burdens on the jail and welfare system.

- 343 New probation cases were taken in, including, 57 community service only cases.

- 143 warrants were issued on non-compliers for failure to cooperate and abide by instructions.
- 84 warrant cases were apprehended and probation status revoked. Offenders were usually given appropriate jail sentences.
- 2,637 hours of community service were accomplished by probationers at the Hardee County Road Department and Pioneer Park.
- \$18,801.82 is the benefit to Hardee County for the community service hours, calculated at minimum wage.
- Additional community service hours were also accomplished at other non-profit organizations, for the

benefit of others in the community.

- \$96,127.58 in probation fees were collected during this time.
- \$118,671.79 is the amount that we helped collect for the Clerk's Office in court ordered obligations, mostly fines.
- \$6,598.62 is the amount that we collected and forwarded to victims of crimes for restitution. \$233,601.19 is the total that was generated for Hardee County through collections of probation fees, assistance in collections for Clerk's Office, and community service provided to Hardee County Departments.

Capital Projects

Highway 17 Expansion

Expeditious completion of 4 laning U.S. Highway 17 continues to be a major effort for Hardee County staff and administration. Although the public may not perceive anything about this effort as expeditious, countless hours have gone into lobbying state and federal officials, intergovernmental coordination, maintaining and increasing its priority status, reducing costs, and private land

owner assistance and cooperation. U.S. Highway 17 is the economic lifeblood of our county and this effort will remain a priority until all phases to complete the 4 laning of U.S. Highway 17 are included in the FDOT 5 year work program.

As required, the County amended the five-year capital improvement plan that is included as part of the comprehensive plan through Ordinance 09-01.

The Transportation Element included the following projects:

Moffitt Road – The County Engineer completed some preliminary work on redesigning the alignment to minimize the additional right of way required to pave Moffitt Road from Sasser Road to Dallas McClellan Road. During the 2010 fiscal year we plan on finishing the engineering design and permitting, and paving this 1/2 mile stretch of Moffitt Road.

North Florida Avenue – The County received all of the permits for the North Florida Avenue SCRAP/SCOP project this

Capital Projects, Continued...

year except the SWFWMD permit. The SWFWMD permit was received early in the 2010 fiscal year. The County has completed the specifications book and it must be reviewed by the engineer of record. Once this is finished the project will go out to bid and the project will be awarded for construction. The North Florida Avenue project should be completed near the middle of the 2010 fiscal year.

College Hill Road – The County received all of the permits for the College Hill Road SCRAP project this year. It is being bid at the same time as Steve Roberts Special to try and get better pricing. Both projects will be bid at the beginning of the 2010 fiscal year and awarded for construction. Construction should be complete during the second quarter of the 2010 fiscal year.

Steve Roberts Special – The County received all of the permits for the Steve Roberts Special SCRAP project this year. It is being bid at the same time as College Hill Road to try and get better pricing. Both projects will be bid at the beginning of the 2010 fiscal year and awarded for construction. Construction should be complete during the third quarter of the 2010 fiscal year.

Gebhart Road – The County received all of the permits for the Gebhart Road paving project this year. It was put out to bid just before the end of the fiscal year. Bids will be due in October and award of the contract for construction expected in November. Construction should be complete during the second quarter of the 2010 fiscal year.

The Parks and Recreation Element included two major capital improvement projects this year. The first project was a two phase project to construct soccer fields. The first phase of the project was funded through the Florida

Recreational Development Assistance Program Grant in the amount of \$200,000 as well as receiving nearly that much in in-kind and cash contributions. This first phase consisted constructing two fields to tournament specifications, seating, irrigation, ADA accessibility, parking, and lighting for one field.

The second project was the first phase of a three phase project to construct a baseball/softball four field complex. This project was also funded through the Florida Recreational Development Assistance Program Grant in the amount of \$200,000 and received in excess of that through in-kind and cash contributions. The first phase consisted of site work for all four fields, field parking, ADA accessibility, as well as seating, lighting, irrigation and fencing for two fields. Submittal of the second phase of this project was made to FRDAP this past year, however was not awarded due to funding not being allocated to the program.

The Utilities Element includes: Wauchula Hills Waste Water Treatment Plant expansion & improvements – This project construction was completed in November 2008. Considering technical advantages and leveraging existing on-site facilities and the most efficient use of available funds at the time, the planned Phase 2 expansion in 2007 was design re-engineered, permitted and bid awarded to achieve accelerated plant capacity availability not previously planned until Phase 4. For the just over two year \$3M effort, along with County provided resources and work, only about \$55K of expenditures came from a local Dependent District Board grant funding with the rest being entirely funded through consolidation of several years of State Legislature appropriated reimbursable grants.

Pine Cone MH Park Waste Water Lift Station tie-in – In accordance with an earlier BoCC approved service agreement, lift station & line extension design and permitting were accomplished during the year by the owner of the Park. Construction

and testing efforts were accomplished and the Park was formally connected to the Wauchula Hills waste water system with FDEP approval in November 2009. County expenses for the project main line tap and lateral extension were just under \$12K and reimbursable using State Legislature appropriated grant funds.

Orange Blossom MH Park Waste Water Lift Station rehabilitation and tie-in – In accordance with an earlier BoCC approved service agreement, lift station improvements design, permitting and bid award were accomplished during the year by the County. Construction Notice to Proceed has been issued with expected completion and tie in to the Wauchula Hills waste water system expected by early 2010. Excluding any contingency expenses, the project is expected to cost \$66K which will be funded using State Legislature appropriated reimbursable grant funds.

Utility planning, design, permitting project – As an unexpected award by the State Legislature and Governor in 2008 to the County's 2007 community budget request, this project was originally co-managed as a County Planning Department and HCUD effort to plan for 5-20 year County growth, possible leveraging/interconnecting of waste water distribution systems and a possible reuse water system creation. Modification of the award scope was shortly thereafter approved and expanded to include efforts associated with the proposed future Vandolah Rural Center infrastructure requirements and engineering services for the project were bid awarded in late 2008 to

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Capital Projects, Continued...

Envisors. Initially estimated to be completed within a year, significant events have caused several essential re-evaluations of base growth assumptions and associated infrastructure options, as well as project management. With latest direction provided to engineers, this State Legislature appropriated reimbursable grant project is now expected to be completed by mid-2010.

Wauchula Hills Sub-division Water & Sewer Phase 2 expansion & improvements – Following the highly successful 2007/2008 Phase I initial infrastructure installation within the high nitrate contaminated sub-division, the State Legislature appropriated reimbursable grant funds in the amount of \$740K toward continuing waste water line extension efforts. Further, in order to extend potable water lines in parallel, an estimated \$250K of funds received from the State for Fiscally Constrained (FISCON) counties will be applied. This year engineering, design & permitting has been completed for water and sewer availability improvements to homes not previously serviced from Rainey Blvd north. The awarded bidder for this Phase 2 has accepted Notice to Proceed for January 2010. At this time, operational funding source(s) to ultimately connect homes to the planned Phase 2 extensions are not established, however another \$220K from previously cited funding

sources will be used for construction engineering and observation efforts throughout this and other projects expected to be completed by end-2010.

Wauchula Hills Water Treatment Plant & HQ expansion – Since 2003, the HCUD has as an interim measure purchased, stored, and re-treated water from the City of Wauchula for distribution to County customers. In order to control expenses and expand water available capacity, the County began engineering, design and permitting development of its own facilities in 2006/2007. Opportunities for leveraging long term best operational management practices and financial investments have dictated changes from conceptual facility location designs which by mid-2009 are defined. This project, estimated to cost \$2.5M and considered the most difficult and important element in support to the health & safety of customers and establishing County utility management control for future economic growth and operations, has three principal integrated components:

Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) consumptive use and construction permits are in place for two proposed 12" potable water wells adjacent to the existing Wauchula Hills facilities. County Road & Bridge resources constructed access cul-de-sacs to the wellhead locations (estimated \$26K) and the well construction bid was awarded

(\$477K) with Notice to Proceed in November 2009 and estimated completion March 2010. Fund source is through Hardee County Economic Development Authority awarded reimbursable infrastructure grant.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection dry-line permit is in place for Water Treatment Plant (WTP) construction adjacent to existing Wauchula Hills facilities. Engineering and design of the WTP expansion continues (with bid packet expected in January 2010) in coordination with well water quality determination and Operations Headquarters controls design. Fund sources are through Hardee County Economic Development Authority awarded reimbursable infrastructure grant and, as necessary from previously received IMC trust funds within budgeted restricted cash forward.

Parallel architect, engineer and planner efforts are ongoing in development of the Utilities Operations Headquarters within two Hardee County Commerce Park (HCCP) lots acquired adjacent to the Wauchula Hills facilities. Bid packet is expected in Feb/Mar 2010 contingent on County P&Z Board scheduling and HCCP architectural review requirements. Fund sources are through Hardee County Economic Development Authority awarded reimbursable

infrastructure grant and from previously received remaining local Dependent District Board grant and IMC trust funds within budgeted restricted cash forward.

Miscellaneous Capital Projects – Necessary efforts budgeted, but without progress during 2009 include:

Force main over-sizing cost-share contribution (estimated \$30K, using State Legislature appropriated

reimbursable grant funds) for extension from US17 west along Bostick Road to tie in the Torrey Oaks RV & Golf

Resort facilities. This extension project is pending developer actions, including service agreement.

Wauchula Hills facilities engineering, design, permitting and construction (estimated \$30K using previously received IMC trust funds) for proposed site re-use irrigation system improvements.

This project is pending precursor site development activities.

Survey service efforts along US17 north of existing water and force mains for design of future line extensions (estimated \$30K split between State Legislature appropriated reimbursable grant funds and previously received IMC trust funds). This project is on hold pending proposed development actions.

County Directory

Animal Control
773-2320

Animal Refuge
735-9531

Budget & Finance
773-3199

Building & Code Enforcement
773-3236

Central Dispatch
773-4144

Civic Center
773-6698

Clerk of the Court
773-4174

Community Development
773-6349

County Extension
773-2164

County Manager/BOCC
773-9430

County Probation
773-9323

Courthouse Security
773-0385

Cracker Trail Museum
735-0119

E911
773-0222

Emergency Management
773-6373

Facilities Management
773-3419

Fire Control & EMS
773-4362

Guardian Ad Litem
773-2505

Hardee Lakes Park
781-2594

Health Department
773-4161

Human Resources
773-2161

Mining
773-0136

Information Technology
767-9655

Landfill
773-5089

Library
773-6438

Maintenance Shop
773-6430

Pioneer Park
735-0330

Planning & Development
767-1964

Property Appraiser
773-2196

Public Defender
773-6758

Purchasing
773-5014

Road & Bridge
773-3272

Sheriff
773-0304

Soil Conservation
773-9644

State Attorney
773-6613

State Probation
773-4777

2008-2009 ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 09-01

PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE 02-07 WHICH CREATES THE HARDEE COUNTY ENTERPRISE ZONE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY ("EZDA"), AND PROVIDES, INTER ALIA, FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO GOVERN THE AGENCY; AND PROVIDING FOR FILLING OF VACANCIES OF COMMISSIONERS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

RESOLUTION 09-02

TO CLOSE AND ABANDON A PORTION OF PINE STREET AND AN ALLEYWAY IN THE TOWN OF ONA SUBDIVISION

RESOLUTION 09-03

AUTHORIZING THE BORROWING OF NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000,000 FROM THE POOLED COMMERCIAL PAPER LOAN PROGRAM OF THE FLORIDA LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE COMMISSION PURSUANT TO THE TERMS OF THE LOAN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COMMISSION AND THE AND THE COUNTY IN ORDER TO REFINANCE A PORTION OF A LOAN PREVIOUSLY MADE RELATED TO CLOSURE AND EXPANSION OF THE COUNTY LANDFILL;

RESOLUTION 09-04

RELATING TO THE 2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION; AUTHORIZING STAFF TO PREPARE A LEGISLATIVE PACKET; IDENTIFYING TRANSPORTATION NEEDS; IDENTIFYING INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

RESOLUTION 09-05

RELATING TO THE REQUEST OF FULL FUNDING OF THE AMENDMENT I OFFSET FOR FISCALLY CONSTRAINED COUNTIES AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

RESOLUTION 09-06

2007/2008 SEMI-ANNUAL BUDGET AMENDMENTS

RESOLUTION 09-07

AMENDING THE HARDEE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN HOUSING ELEMENT, AS ADOPTED JUNE 20, 2002

RESOLUTION 09-08

TO CLOSE AND ABANDON ALLEYWAYS IN THE TOWN OF ONA SUBDIVISION

RESOLUTION 09-09

ESTABLISHING THE FEE SCHEDULE FOR THE HARDEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

RESOLUTION 09-10

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ISSUANCE BY THE HARDEE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF ITS HARDEE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT REVENUE BONDS, IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$30,000,000 TO FINANCE THE COST OF THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, EQUIPPING AND INSTALLATION OF A SENIOR HOUSING FACILITY IN HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

RESOLUTION 09-11

ACKNOWLEDGING THE APPRECIATION AND SERVICE OF MARY HELEN BLAKESEE

RESOLUTION 09-13

AUTHORIZING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR JANET GILLIARD TO ACT AS PROJECT MANAGER AND/OR GRANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE FLORIDA BOATING IMPROVEMENT GRANT.

RESOLUTION 09-14

INCREASING A ONE-TIME MAXIMUM AWARD OF THE HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS TO ACCOMMODATE FOR THE MINIMUM SQUARE FOOTAGE REQUIREMENTS AS DEFINED IN THE COUNTY'S LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS FOR A DWELLING LOCATED IN R-1 AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

RESOLUTION 09-15

ESTABLISHING THE CRITERIA TO BE CONSIDERED WHEN GRANTING AD VALOREM TAX ABATEMENTS AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

RESOLUTION 09-16

APPROVING THE LOCAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE PLAN AS REQUIRED BY THE STATE HOUSING INITIATIVES PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM ACT, SUBSECTIONS 420.907 – 420.9079, FLORIDA STATUTES; AND RULE CHAPTER 67 – 37, FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE ANY NECESSARY DOCUMENTS AND CERTIFICATIONS NEEDED BY THE STATE; AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF THE LOCAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE PLAN FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY THE FLORIDA HOUSING CORPORATION, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

RESOLUTION 09-17

ESTABLISHING THE FEE SCHEDULE FOR THE HARDEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

RESOLUTION 09-18

RELATING TO THE URGING OF THE 2009 COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE TO CONSIDER ALLOCATION OF FUNDING FOR THE COMPLETION OF U.S. HIGHWAY 17 THROUGH THE SAFETEA-LU. HARDEE COUNTY

FURTHER URGES THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION TO CONSIDER THIS ALLOCATION OF FUNDING FOR U.S. HIGHWAY 17 AS A MEMBER DESIGNATED HIGH PRIORITY PROJECT.

RESOLUTION 09-19

APPROVING THE ANNUAL UNIT REVIEW FOR 2008 AND 2009 FOR CF INDUSTRIES, INC., HARDEE PHOSPAHTE COMPLEX MINE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

RESOLUTION 09-20

2008/2009 SEMI-ANNUAL BUDGET AMENDMENTS

RESOLUTION 09-21

RELATING TO THE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE IN HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA; DESCRIBING THE METHOD OF ASSESSING SOLID WASTE COSTS AGAINST ASSESSED PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN HARDEE COUNTY; DETERMINING THE SOLID WASTE COST FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010; AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO UPDATE THE ASSESSMENT ROLL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

RESOLUTION 09-22

RELATING TO THE FIRE RESCUE SERVICES IN HARDEE COUNTY, FLORIDA; DESCRIBING THE METHOD OF ASSESSING FIRE RESCUE COSTS AGAINST ASSESSED PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN HARDEE COUNTY; DETERMINING THE FIRE RESCUE COST FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010; APPROVING THE ASSESSMENT ROLL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

RESOLUTION 09-23

MODIFYING THE FT. GREEN SOUTHERN RESERVES MINE DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL IMPACT DEVELOPMENT ORDER (RESOLUTION NO. 09-07), AS AMENDED; FINDING THE MODIFICATION DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A SUBSTANTIAL DEVIATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

RESOLUTION 09-24

APPROVING THE 2008 – 2009 ANNUAL REPORT FOR MOSAIC FERTILIZER, LLC.,

FORT MEAD MINE – NORTH HARDEE AREA MINE EXTENSION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

RESOLUTION 09-25

APPROVING THE 2007 – 2008 ANNUAL REPORTS FOR MOSAIC FERTILIZER, LLC., FORT GREEN SOUTHERN RESERVES, FORT GREEN/PAYNE CREEK EXTENSION, SOUTH ROCKLAND AND NORTH PASTURE MINE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

RESOLUTION 09-26

RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS WITH THE STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

RESOLUTION 09-27

APPROVING THE LOCAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE PLAN AS REQUIRED BY THE STATE HOUSING INITIATIVES PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM ACT, SUBSECTIONS 420.907 – 420.9079, FL STATUTES; AND RULE CH. 67-37, FL ADMINISTRATIVE CODE; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE ANY NECESSARY DOCUMENTS AND CERTIFICATIONS NEEDED BY THE STATE; ADDITION OF THE FLORIDA HOMEBUYER OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM; AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF THE LOCAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE PLAN FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY THE FL HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

RESOLUTION 09-28

MODIFYING THE CFI HARDEE PHOSPHATE COMPLEX MINE DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL IMPACT DEVELOPMENT ORDER (RESOLUTION NO. 77-5), AS AMENDED; FINDING THE MODIFICATION DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A SUBSTANTIAL DEVIATION; APPROVING WAIVER OF CERTAIN MINING RECLAMATION STANDARDS; APPROVING THE COMPILATION OF THE APPROVED MASTER MINING AND RECLAMATION PLAN; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

RESOLUTION 09-29

SUPPORTING ELIMINATION OF THE CAP ON THE STATE AND LOCAL HOUSING TRUST FUNDS (HOUSING TRUST FUNDS) AND SUPPORTING FULL APPROPRIATION OF THE HOUSING TRUST FUNDS FOR

HOUSING PROGRAMS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

RESOLUTION 09-30

RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR DEVELOPMENT OF HARDEE LAKES PARK RV CAMPSITES AND COMPONENTS; AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF A FRDAP GRANT APPLICATION TO FUND SAID DEVELOPMENT; AUTHORIZING THE AMENDMENT OF THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

RESOLUTION 09-31

ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE LEVYING OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR HARDEE COUNTY FOR FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING ON OCTOBER 1, 2009 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2010; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

RESOLUTION 09-32

ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING ON OCTOBER 1, 2009 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2010; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

RESOLUTION NO. 09-33

ADOPTING THE FINAL LEVYING OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR HARDEE COUNTY FOR FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING ON OCTOBER 1, 2010; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

RESOLUTION NO. 09-34

ADOPTING THE FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING ON OCTOBER 1, 2009 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2010; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

RESOLUTION 09-35

ESTABLISHING THE FEE SCHEDULE FOR THE HARDEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

**2008-2009 BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ANNUAL REPORT**

412 WEST ORANGE STREET
ROOM 204
WAUCHULA FLORIDA 33873

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Summary of Ordinances passed in FY 08-09

Ordinance No. 09-01

AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, AMENDING THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ELEMENT; AMENDING THE FIRE-YEAR SCHEDULE OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS.

Ordinance 09-02

AMENDING ORDINANCE 08-22 AMENDING THE IMPLEMENTATION DATE OF COLLECTING COUNTY IMPACT FEES FOR ALL DEVELOPMENT EXCEPT INDUSTRIAL AND WAREHOUSE DEVELOPMENTS FROM JANUARY 12, 2009 TO JULY 1, 2009; AMENDING INDUSTRIAL AND WAREHOUSE DEVELOPMENT FROM APRIL 12, 2009 TO OCTOBER 1, 2009; AMENDING THE IMPLEMENTATION DATE OF COLLECTING THE SCHOOL IMPACT FEE FROM RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT FROM JANUARY 12, 2009 TO JULY 1, 2009

Ordinance 09-04

AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN EXPANDING THE HIGHWAY MIXED USE FUTURE LAND USE MAP

Ordinance No. 09-05

AMENDING ORDINANCE 09-02; AMENDING THE IMPLEMENTATION DATE OF COLLECTING COUNTY IMPACT FEES FOR ALL DEVELOPMENT EXCEPT INDUSTRIAL AND WAREHOUSE DEVELOPMENTS FROM JULY 01, 2009 TO JULY 01, 2010; AMENDING INDUSTRIAL AND WAREHOUSE DEVELOPMENTS FROM OCTOBER 1, 2009 TO OCTOBER 1, 2010; AMENDING THE IMPLEMENTATION DATE OF COLLECTING THE SCHOOL IMPACT FEE FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT FROM JULY 1, 2009 TO JULY 01, 2010

Ordinance 09-06

AMENDING UNIFIED LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; SECTIONS 7.07.01, 7.07.02, AND 7.07.03

Ordinance 09-07

AMENDING UNIFIED LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE: BUILDING HEIGHT LIMITATIONS; COMMUNICATIONS TOWERS; LAND USE ALLOWING COMMUNICATION TOWERS

Ordinance 09-08

AMENDING ORDINANCE 04-12 PROVIDING FOR AN INCREASE IN THE IMPOSITION OF A SURCHARGE ON NON-CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS UNDER SECTION 318.18 FSS.

Ordinance 09-09

AMENDING UNIFIED LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE: SECTION 2.29.02(B)